

Code of practice for

**Intruder alarm systems
signalling to alarm receiving
centres**

ICS 13.310

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Committees responsible for this Draft for Development

The preparation of this Draft for Development was entrusted to Technical Committee GW/1, Electronic security systems, upon which the following bodies were represented:

- Association of British Insurers
- Association of Chief Police Officers of England and Wales
- Association of Security Consultants
- British Security Industry Association
- British Telecommunications plc
- Consumer Policy Committee of BSI
- Department of the Environment (Building Research Establishment)
- Electrical Contractors' Association
- Fire Brigades Union
- National Approval Council for Security Systems
- Security Facilities Executive
- Security Systems and Alarms Inspection Board

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Foreword

This Draft for Development has been prepared by Technical Committee GW/1. It sets out recommendations for the design, installation and configuration of intruder alarm systems signalling to alarm receiving centres (formerly known as central monitoring stations). It also sets out recommendations for the handling of alarm signals and other alarm information received at an alarm receiving centre from such alarm systems.

This Draft for Development includes recommendations for alarm systems that incorporate means for confirming activity within the protected premises, as well as recommendations for alarm systems that do not incorporate such a facility.

As a code of practice, this Draft for Development takes the form of guidance and recommendations. It should not be quoted as if it were a specification and particular care should be taken to ensure that claims of compliance are not misleading.

This Draft for Development is not to be regarded as a British Standard.

It is being issued in the Draft for Development series of publications and is of a provisional nature. It should be applied on this provisional basis, so that information and experience of its practical application may be obtained.

A review of this Draft for Development will be carried out not later than 2 years after its publication. Notification of the start of the review period, with a request for the submission of comments from users of this Draft for Development, will be made in an announcement in *Update Standards*.

According to the replies received, the responsible BSI Committee will judge whether the Draft for Development can be converted into a British Standard or what other action should be taken.

Observations which it is felt should receive attention before the official call for comments will be welcomed.

These should be sent to the Secretary of BSI Technical Committee GW/1 at BSI Head Office, 389 Chiswick High Road, London, W4 4AL, giving the document reference and clause number and proposing, where possible, an appropriate revision of the text.

Summary of pages

This document comprises a front cover, an inside front cover, pages i and ii, pages 1 to 12, an inside back cover and a back cover.

Code of practice

1 Scope

This Draft for Development applies to alarm systems conforming to BS 4737, BS 6799, BS 7042 and to Class VI wire-free alarm systems conforming to BS 6799 as supplemented by DD 244. This Draft for Development does not apply to personal attack (hold up) alarms (whether they are stand-alone personal attack systems or the personal attack part of a combined personal attack/automatic alarm system).

This Draft for Development does not apply to intruder alarm systems having signalling systems that do not signal to an alarm receiving centre.

NOTE. This Draft for Development is intended to apply to intruder alarm systems installed in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Attention is drawn to the fact that certain parts of this Draft for Development may not be appropriate in Scotland where the police service has not adopted an intruder alarm policy similar to the policy adopted in 1995 by the Association of Chief Police Officers of England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

2 References

2.1 Normative reference

This Draft for Development incorporates, by dated reference, provisions from another publication. This normative reference is made at the appropriate places in the text and the cited publication is listed on the inside back cover. For this dated reference, only the edition cited applies: any subsequent amendments to or revisions of the cited publication apply to this draft for development only when incorporated in the reference by amendment or revision.

2.2 Informative references

This Draft for Development refers to other publications that provide information or guidance. Editions of these publications current at the time of issue of this standard are listed on the inside back cover, but reference should be made to the latest editions.

3 Definitions

For the purposes of this standard, the following definitions apply.

3.1 alarm company

Organization prepared to provide and install an intruder alarm system.

3.2 alarm condition

State of any detector, processor or tamper detection which indicates that intrusion, attempted intrusion or unauthorized interference has occurred or is about to occur.

3.3 alarm filtering

Procedure whereby signalled alarm conditions are intentionally delayed at the alarm receiving centre and their status reviewed for the purpose of preventing unnecessary calls to the police by cancelling certain alarm conditions, where such cancellation is authorized by the subscriber.

3.4 alarm message

Message conveyed from an alarm receiving centre to the police which indicates that an alarm condition has occurred at a protected premises, or which provides supplementary information concerning a previously reported alarm message.

3.5 alarm receiving centre

Continuously manned remote centre in which the information concerning the state of alarm systems is displayed and/or recorded.

NOTE. An alarm receiving centre is referred to as an alarm receiving station in BS 6804 and as a remote manned centre in BS 5839.

3.6 alarm signal

Signal which, upon being received at an alarm receiving centre or other remote location identifies a signalled alarm condition.

3.7 alert condition

In a sequential confirmation alarm system, state of any detector, sensor, processor or tamper detection which in a conventional alarm system would have been classified as an alarm condition, but which (in certain sequential confirmation alarm systems) is not classified as an alarm condition unless authenticated by a second or further alert condition or alarm condition originating from an independent sensor, detector or processor.

3.8 audibly confirmed

Confirmed by a human intelligence at a remote location (normally an alarm receiving centre) who, after having interpreted audio information transmitted from the protected premises, has made a decision that there is a high probability that a genuine intrusion or a genuine attempted intrusion has occurred.

3.9 confirmed

Audibly confirmed, visually confirmed, or sequentially confirmed.

3.10 control equipment

Equipment necessary for the setting, unsetting and testing of an intruder alarm system and for sending an alarm condition to warning devices and/or signalling equipment.

3.11 detector

Device that generates an alarm condition in response to intrusion or to attempted intrusion, or to deliberate action by the subscriber.

3.12 false alert

Signalled alarm condition which (without having been extended to the police or other emergency response authority) is regarded by the alarm receiving centre as cancelled, such cancellation having been authorized by the subscriber.

NOTE 1. Such authorization can be either:

- a) on a case-by-case basis by use of suitable code words or numbers in accordance with a defined alarm filtering routine; or
- b) by prior written agreement.

NOTE 2. 'False alerts' are not regarded as 'false alarms'. False alarms are events that have not been successfully identified and filtered out, and have therefore been notified to the police.

3.13 processor

Device which processes the output from one or more sensors to determine whether an alarm condition should be generated.

NOTE. The processor may be integral with the control equipment.

3.14 protected premises

Part of a building to which protection is afforded by an intruder alarm system.

3.15 rearming

Following signalling of an alarm or fault condition, enabling the alarm system to signal a further alarm or fault condition during the period between the signalling of the original alarm or fault condition and the alarm system being unset.

3.16 set

Of an intruder alarm system or part thereof, in a state in which an alarm condition can be sent to warning devices and/or signalling equipment.

3.17 sequentially confirmed

Emanating from two or more independent sensors, detectors and/or processors which are so configured that there is a high probability that a genuine intrusion or a genuine attempted intrusion has occurred.

3.18 shunt lock

Door lock incorporating a switching device within the lock case.

3.19 signalled alarm condition

State of monitoring equipment at an alarm receiving centre (or other remote location) which indicates that intrusion, attempted intrusion or unauthorized interference has occurred at the protected premises or is about to occur. Once signalled at the remote location as an alarm condition, the event is regarded as a signalled alarm condition even if subsequently filtered out by the alarm receiving centre personnel as being a false alert not requiring police response.

3.20 signalling

Initiation of the transmission of an alarm condition from the protected premises to a remote location.

3.21 system design specification

Specification for a proposed intruder alarm system, listing the equipment and components to be supplied, detailing their proposed locations and containing a general indication of their coverage or purpose.

3.22 system record

Detailed record of an intruder alarm system.

NOTE 1. This record should conform to BS 4737 : Part 1 : 1986.

NOTE 2. It is important that any differences between a proposed intruder alarm system (see definition of system design specification in 3.21) and the intruder alarm system which is actually fitted are noted, and that the system record describes the intruder alarm system as actually fitted. Also, it is important that the system record is amended at the time of any subsequent changes being made during the life of the intruder alarm system.

3.23 unset

Of an intruder alarm system or part thereof, state in which an alarm condition cannot be sent to warning devices and/or signalling equipment.

3.24 visually confirmed

Confirmed by a human intelligence at a remote location (normally an alarm receiving centre) who, after having interpreted a visual image transmitted from the protected premises, has made a decision that there is a high probability that a genuine intrusion or a genuine attempted intrusion has occurred.

4 Alarm confirmation techniques**4.1 Confirmed alarm conditions**

If an alarm system incorporates means for confirming activity within the protected premises, it is intended that once activity within the premises has been confirmed the alarm receiving centre should normally call the police as soon as practicable thereafter.

An exception may be appropriate if the alarm receiving centre is aware that the alarm system is being unset, in which case it would be appropriate to defer calling the police for a period (not exceeding 180 s) to allow for an alarm filtering routine.

4.2 Other alarm conditions (signalled from alarm systems that are capable of providing confirmation of activity)

Some alarm systems are capable of providing confirmation of activity within the protected premises.

In some cases, only certain parts of the system will be capable of providing confirmation of activity. In many cases it may not be possible to have a high